

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-12. (Cancelled).

13. (New) A sealing element for a cable transit opening provided in a wall of an apparatus housing, wherein:

the sealing element has the form of an open-ended gaiter which can be fitted to an outer cable intended for connection to equipment situated in said apparatus housing, said gaiter having a generally cylindrical rear end-part that can be fitted to the cable in sealing abutment with its outer barrel surface, and a generally cylindrical front end-part adapted for sealing abutment with an outer barrel surface tubular socket which projects out from said wall at said cable transit opening, and wherein the sealing element includes an elongate, flexible connecting part which movably connects the two end-parts together.

14. (New) The sealing element of claim 13, wherein said connecting part is adapted to support the front gaiter end-part stably in two mutually different positions in relation to the rear end-part of the gaiter, namely in a forwardly displaced position in which the front end-part is located at a significant axial distance from the rear end-part, and a withdrawn position in which the front end-part is located axially close to the rear end-part.

15. (New) The sealing element of claim 14, wherein said front end-part at least partially overlaps the rear end-part when in said withdrawn position.

16. (New) The sealing element of claim 13, wherein said connecting part has a generally conical shape in said forwardly displaced position.

17. (New) The sealing element of claim 16, wherein said connecting part has a material thickness which decreases in a direction from its rear end to its front end, and wherein said connecting part is connected to the front end-part by means of a narrow flange which projects outwardly from said connecting part in a generally radial direction.

18. (New) The sealing element of claim 13, wherein said rear end-part of the gaiter includes a plurality of peripherally extending ridges and peripherally extending grooves disposed there between.

19. (New) The sealing element of claim 13, wherein said front end-part of the gaiter includes an inner ring-shaped bead which is intended for engagement with an external ring-shaped groove in said tubular socket.

20. (New) The sealing element of claim 13, wherein said sealing element is comprised of silicone rubber.

21. (New) A method for sealingly mounting of a cable to a counterpart with a tubular socket projecting from it using a flexible gaiter-like sealing element, said method comprising the steps of:

sealingly fixing a rear-end of the sealing element to the cable thereby partly covering connecting means at the cable end;

uncovering the connecting means by moving the front end-part of the sealing element to a retracted position using the inherent flexibility of the element while essentially keeping the rear end in its fixed position;

connecting the cable to the counterpart via the tubular socket;

moving the front end-part of the sealing element back to its initial forwardly displaced position, thus sealingly covering the connection between the cable and the tubular socket of the counterpart.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the front end-part of the sealing element is clamped to the tubular socket using a clamping ring.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the rear end-part of the sealing element is sealingly fixed to the cable using inherent elasticity of the sealing element or crimped or glued to the cable.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of securing said rear end-part of the sealing element to said cable using a clamping ring.

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